



Teaching Artists Organized (TAO)

A project of the Community Initiatives Fund of the San Francisco Foundation

A new service organization for Teaching and Community Artists in the Bay Area

Volume 1, Issue 2

August 2008

Teaching Artists Organized (TAO) is now officially "a project of the Community Initiatives Fund (CIF) of the San Francisco Foundation," giving TAO access to the benefits of being a 501(c)3 and providing fiscal administrative support as well. This means CIF can receive and disburse money for TAO. As of the moment, there are no funds, so it's not a burning issue, but we will be receiving some support soon to plan and facilitate a statewide gathering of organizations that support the work and training of teaching artists (more about that in a minute).

Acting project director Sabrina Klein (Creative Education Consulting) and acting advisory committee chair Jill Randall (Shawl-Anderson Dance Center and Dancers Group) signed the papers with Community Initiatives Fund of The San Francisco Foundation. This sponsorship moves us closer to our goal of becoming a full-fledged member service organization; we intend to launch a membership drive in the fall. Initially, member benefits will include a monthly newsletter, regional networking opportunities, information about jobs, informal brown bag lunches in our new office and more. Speaking of which...

TAO has an official office space!

Okay, really, just a desk in an office, and some chairs. It's nothing fancy, but it's a place we can meet, keep

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Contact TAO

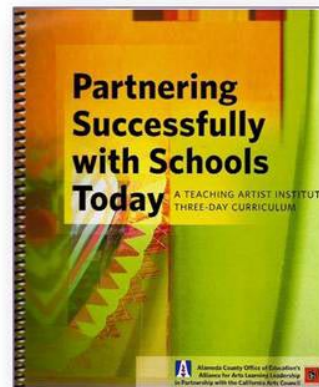
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A Teaching Artist Institute 3-Day Training Curriculum
From the 2007 Alameda County Office of Education Alliance for Arts Learning Leadership, Alameda County Arts Commission, California College for the Arts, and the California Arts Council 2007 Teaching Artist Institute

You can order a spiffy full color spiral-bound copy for \$22.68 plus s/h, or download it for FREE! Preview it at www.lulu.com and type TAI in the search box. ☺

Calendar & more...

September 27 -- Expo for Independent Arts

An outdoor expo & resource fair for artists and musicians, Dolores Park, 11 am-6pm. FREE. TAO will have a table there for information, so drop in and say hey, or better yet, volunteer to help staff it!

October 3 – Arts Day in California. Make some noise, fly above the radar!

October 6 – Theatre Bay Area Annual Meeting. Go to www.theatrebayarea.org for information.

October date to be announced – Brown bag lunch and networking opportunity in SF. All teaching artists & arts providers invited. Date TBA in next newsletter.

Have events for us to list? E-mail to tao@teachingartistsorganized.org

files, and set up a work station. The address is 3179 College Avenue (buzzer #3 at the door), Berkeley, 94705, at the corner of Alcatraz. We inaugurated the space with the August meeting of the TAO steering committee.

Funding

Jill Randall, Dale Albright and Belinda Taylor met with John Killacky at the **San Francisco Foundation** last month to outline TAO's goals and efforts to bring a fully-functioning service organization for TAs into being. They received a warm reception, and were invited to apply for funding in the fall. This doesn't mean TAO will get funded, but it is a positive sign.

Frances Phillips on behalf of the Haas Fund, has also agreed to accept a proposal for seed funding for TAO. Again, accepting a proposal isn't the same as making a grant, but it means our ideas and aspirations are being taken seriously. It also means we've got some work to do to start deciding what "membership" in TAO will mean. Jill Randall, Mary Sutton and Belinda Taylor are heading up our membership committee and will report at our October Brown Bag lunch.

Statewide meeting on Teaching Artists' Professional Development

The California Arts Council has granted \$10,000 to the Alameda County Arts Commission to host a major convening of teaching artist support organizations from around the state this November. TAO was asked to plan and facilitate the meeting; ergo, our first funding. The topics for discussion will include professional development for Teaching Artists, professional standards for TAs, credentialing—an admittedly controversial topic -- and other issues, including models for regional partnerships and creation of a statewide network in support of TAs.

This will be the second CAC-sponsored convening of this group; the first was last November with the goal of articulating the growing role of the TA in schools as arts learning has begun returning to the classroom.

TAO will collaborate with the Alameda County Arts Commission, San Francisco Art Commission, Sacramento Arts Commission, the Los Angeles County Arts Commission, and the California Arts Council to plan the meeting. The San Francisco Foundation has graciously offered their conference room for the November 6, 2008 gathering. ☺

Honing your teaching artist skills (tips for the new TA parent!)

By Rica Anderson, Education Program Administrator, Cal Performances and parent of baby Tamsin, born April 26



Theater

- **Long Night's Journey Into Colic**

A series of monologues set in the wee hours of the morning, whispered to crying, insomniac baby as a silent TV flickers in the background. Pacing the floor and rocking in a chair, the caregiver-actor performs a stream-of-consciousness piece touching on memories, absurdist musings and repeated comforting phrases accented by long pauses and light snoring. One part Beckett, one part O'Neill, three parts infomercial.

- **Pantomime Playhouse**

Forget striving for a subtle, layered performance. Ever wanted to play scenes way over the top while indicating broadly? Now's your chance to indulge as you chew the scenery out of "Good Night Moon" and other children's books. No "less is more" for baby, bigger is best, and frankly, pandering to this audience feels great.

Dance

- **The Jiggle Dance**

This structured improvisational duet uses bouncy movement that builds in intensity depending on duration and volume of baby's crying. The dance is often accompanied by desperate shushing sounds or lullabies sung at the top of one's voice.

- **Toy Trippin'**

A purely improvisational dance set into motion as the caregiver-dancer trips over a baby's rattle and is pitched into a minefield of soft-looking yet surprisingly painful educational toys. Types of movement: Lunging, weaving and wild hopping with a crash-bang finale that ends on the floor. Vocals include: A series of "Ows" and loud swearing, followed by apologies to baby. ☺